GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
National Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities with powers on par with a Civil court and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government proposes to amend Section 3(3) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2014, allowing discrimination against a disabled person, if it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that most public spaces are still inaccessible for persons with Disabilities like Public Transport, Government Buildings, Toilets, ATMs etc. in the country and if so, the steps being taken by the Government to make public spaces differently-abled friendly;
(d) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to some of the basic issues like lack of teachers, Braille books, audio books and devices and paucity of teaching-learning aids in schools for the blind across the country;
(e) whether it is a fact that there is no provision of jobs for sportspersons among PWDs; and
(f) whether it is a fact that the 2011 Census put the number of disabled in India at 2.68 crore, or 2.21 per cent of the population?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) No, Sir.
(b) No, Sir.

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(c) It has come to the Notice of the Government that some of the public places, public transport etc are not accessible for persons with disabilities. With a view to create barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities in physical environment, transportation and information and communication technologies, the Government has launched Accessible India Campaign (AIC) on December 3, 2015. Further, Government has taken following steps:

â€¢ Model building Bye Laws containing the accessibility norms for persons with disabilities in built in environment has been issued on 18.03.2016.
â€¢ Harmonised guidelines and Space Standards for barrier free environment for PwDs were issued by the Central Public Works Department on 23.03.2016.
â€¢ Bus Body Code containing provisions for passengers with disabilities has been notified in September, 2016.
â€¢ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has issued guidelines for Indian Government websites to make them accessible.
(d) Department of School Education & Literacy has informed that the Government of India is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalizing elementary education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Its overall goals include universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in education and enhancement of learning levels of children. SSA provides Rs. 3000/- per child per annum for assessment, provision of free aids and appliances, teacher training, engagement of resource persons exclusively for children with special needs (CWSN), support services and barrier free access.

Besides under SSA, two resource persons are engaged in every Block Resource Centre exclusively for CWSN. Under SSA 18174 such resource persons are engaged. Under the SSA, during 2015-16, 268002 CWSN were provided assistive devices. Besides, 24544 visually impaired children were provided Braille books and 63303 low vision children were provided large print books. During 2015-16, 37984 general teachers were trained on Braille and 82513 general teachers were trained on low vision.

(e) Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has informed that as per scheme of Sports & Games for disabled, bulk-grant is provided to Special Olympic Bharat (SOB) for organizing Community Coaches Training (CCT) & Sports competition at District, State & National Level. No job is provided to physically challenged persons under the Scheme.

(f) Yes, Sir.

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